

Permitting insurers to provide coverage for grandchildren  
(HB 1616 by Price/Johnson)

DIGEST: HB 1616 would specifically permit individual and group health insurance policies and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a grandchild who is living with the policy holder if the grandchild's parent is a dependent minor also living with the policy holder and the parent is covered by the policy.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON  
FOR VETO:

The governor said HB 1616 would require individual and group health insurance policies and health maintenance organizations to provide dependent coverage for grandchildren living with the policy holder. This coverage can currently be purchased but is not required, he said.

The proposed requirement would be exceedingly difficult to administer and would result in increased costs to the state and the private sector. The effect of HB 1616 would be the restriction of the availability of private health insurance coverage resulting from forcing premiums to an artificially high level to pay for social policies.

AUTHOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Al Price said he was surprised by the veto. The bill did not mandate coverage. No objections were raised to the bill by the insurance industry or any other organization. It was a straightforward, fair and innocuous bill that should not have been vetoed, he said.

NOTES: HB 1616 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.